

of Canada, to provide for the distribution of information abroad and to co-ordinate and assist the information services of the Government of Canada."

On July 19, Bill 305, an "Act respecting the Canadian Information Service," received first reading in the House of Commons. (Attached as Appendix IID.) By August 14, apparently, Mr. Claxton was beginning to worry about the chances of passing the Bill through its several stages during that current session of Parliament. Mr. Claxton was then in Paris on the Canadian Delegation to the Peace Conference. The relevant passage of Paris telegram No. 401 of August 14, 1946, is as follows:

Personal and Confidential. Following for Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State, from Brooke Claxton, Begins:

Experience here confirms view gained previous conferences that Government Information Service is essential. Believe all countries represented here have them on much more extensive basis and regard ours as minimum necessary to see that Canadian policies and interests are made known abroad and that facilities are provided to ensure flow of information from abroad to Canada. Consequently, trust it may be possible proceed Bill this session, as otherwise impossible hold and secure adequate staff, and postponement until next session, would increase opposition. Sorry to trouble you with this and realize difficulties, but believe it very desirable. People in Canada do not fully appreciate changed nature of world we are in where international conferences will be constant and everything that happens is used as propaganda, spread in most nations by direct Government action by all means available. Nor do Canadians realize how small and efficient are our Civil Service, External Affairs and Information Service. . . .